Reverend W. Alan Froggatt, Minister
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THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHESTER

An Open & Affirming Congregation of
The United Church of Christ
August 17, 2025 9:00 a.m.
Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREPARATION FOR THE WORD

WELCOME — Pat Holloway, Deacon

PRELUDE — *Ave Maria* — Bach/Gounod
Eileen Sypher, organist

CALL TO WORSHIP

When we come together, our noblest dreams are of the community of Christ, but in our waking hours, we sometimes forget our dreams.

Our dreams become alien, our brothers and sisters strangers.

Yet God calls us all by name.

With arms outstretched as on a cross, God draws us near, and names us as God's own people.

So with our own arms outstretched, we now embrace new friends and forgotten dreams:

The body broken and the lifeblood poured transform our fears and revive our visions.

Let God renew us all by the power of the Holy Spirit, that we may receive this mystery of our body,

Embracing its manifold gifts and needs, and shouting the loud "Amen!" that resounds through the world. Amen!

*HYMN — *It Is Well With My Soul* — insert

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way, when sorrows like sea billows roll; whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say, it is well, it is well, with my soul.

Refrain: It is well (it is well) with my soul (with my soul), it is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, let this blest assurance control, that Christ has regarded my helpless estate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
Refrain

My sin, oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! My sin, not in part but the whole, is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more, praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Refrain

May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight, the clouds be rolled back as a scroll; the trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend, even so, it well with my soul
Refrain

INVOCATION

O Lord, you are the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Hope. All that we are, all that we have, all that we hope for, already rests in you. Help us in this hour, as in every hour, to know you as the One who envelops all creation with mercy and grace, with hope and peace. Give strength now to those who seek it, your healing to broken bodies and souls, and encouragement to all who are trying their best to serve you faithfully. Hear our humble words through the spirit of Jesus Christ, Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Daniel 2.31-35

And Daniel said to Nebuchadnezzar, "You were looking, O king, and there appeared a great statue. That statue was huge, its brilliance extraordinary; it was standing before you, and its appearance was frightening. The head of that statue was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its midsection and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. As you looked on, a stone was cut out, not by human hands, and it struck the statue on its feet of iron and clay and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were all broken in pieces and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors, and the wind carried them away, so that not a trace of them could be found. But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth."

ANTHEM *Skye Boat Song* traditional(attr. William Ross c.1782)
Laura Reynolds & Alan Froggatt, duo

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON Romans 8.18-25

SERMON *"Through the Looking Glass"* Rev. W. Alan Froggatt

"For in hope we are saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope – for who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."
(Romans 8.24, 25)

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow / Praise God all creatures here below
Praise God for all that love has done / Creator, Christ and Spirit, One. Amen

JOYS AND CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER *("trespasses")*

POEM *The Hope I Know* Thomas Centolella

*HYMN *Within the Maddening Maze of Things* 435

Within the maddening maze of things, when tossed by storm and flood, to one fixed trust my spirit clings; I know that God is good!

No offering of my own I have, nor works my faith to prove; I can but give the gifts you gave, and plead your love for love.

I know not where your islands lift their fronded palms in air; I only know I cannot drift beyond your love and care.

And so beside the silent sea I wait the muffled oar; no harm from you can come to me on ocean or on shore.

I know not what the future holds of marvel or surprise, assured alone that life and death your mercy underlies.

*BLESSING & BENEDICTION

(* all who are able may stand)

LOOKING AHEAD

August 17	**9:00 am** **10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Deacons' Meeting** Soup Kitchen			
August 18	8:30 am	Yoga	August 22	**8:15 am**	**Coffice Hours at The Villager**
August 19	8:30 am	Yoga	August 24	**9:00 am** **10:00 am** 5:00 pm	**Worship** **Trustees Meeting** Soup Kitchen

NOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! No matter who you are, or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here at the United Church of Chester, an Open and Affirming Church and a member of the United Church of Christ. **The United Church of Chester is centered in Christ's love, embracing, nurturing, serving all, and committed to justice and peace.**

The Deacon for the month of August is **Pat Holloway**. The flowers in the chancel were provided by **Ed** and **Eileen Sypher** in loving memory of their mother, **Elsie Sypher**. The greeter this morning is **Norma Stearns**. Coffee hour is being hosted by **Ruth Mowrey** and **Jennifer Gill**. Thank you to all who volunteer!

Birthday Party – Bridget Forant
Bridget Forant's birthday is on August 21st and her sister, Dawn is having a birthday party for her at Water's Edge Facility, 111 Church Street, Middletown on August 24th at 2:00 pm. Bridget and Dawn are very thankful for all the cards that she has received and would welcome in-person visits as well. If you would like to attend Bridget's birthday party on the 24th please contact the office or call Dawn at 860.796.9872.

ALAN'S OFFICE HOURS:. Wednesday - Friday 8:30am-12:30pm, other times by appt.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm